Listing of the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of using a resorbable polymer base material in combination with an implant for the purpose of attenuating adhesions between the implant and surrounding tissue following a surgical procedure in a human patient, the method comprising:

providing a non-porous, resorbable polymer base material;

applying the resorbable polymer base material in a form of a resorbable thin membrane around the implant to thereby cover substantially all exposed surfaces of the implant, wherein the resorbable thin membrane comprises both a substantially uniform thickness except for an edge which is thicker and a resorbable polymer consisting essentially of:

a lactide polymer; or

a copolymer of two or more cyclic esters;

applying the implant and the resorbable thin membrane to a human patient in a region, which is susceptible to adhesions as a consequence of the surgical procedure; and

attenuating an occurrence of adhesions between the implant and surrounding tissue at the region within the human patient by way of the presence of the resorbable thin membrane positioned at the region within the patient.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein:

the resorbable thin membrane comprises a substantially planar membrane of resorbable polymer base material having a first substantially smooth side and a second substantially smooth side, the substantially planar membrane of resorbable polymer base material having a substantially uniform composition;

the substantially planar membrane of resorbable polymer base material comprises a single layer of resorbable polymer base material;

the substantially uniform thickness is measured between the first substantially smooth side and the second substantially smooth side, and is between about 10 microns and about 100 microns;

the edge is 2 to 4 times thicker than the substantially uniform thickness; and

the single layer of resorbable polymer base material is adapted to maintain a smooth-surfaced barrier between the implant and surrounding tissue, and is adapted to be resorbed into a mammalian body within a period of less than approximately 24 months from an initial implantation of the implant into the patient.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein:

the edge is 2-4 times thicker than the substantially uniform thickness;

the resorbable thin membrane comprises a layer of polymer base material; and

the polymer base material comprises about 60-80% of L-lactide and about 20-40% of D,L-lactide.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the edge is 2-4 times thicker than the substantially uniform thickness, and the resorbable thin membrane is in contact with the surfaces of the implant when it is applied to the implant.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein:

the edge is 2-4 times thicker than the substantially uniform thickness; and

the step of applying the thin membrane onto the implant comprises a technique selected from the group consisting of wrapping, interweaving, blanketing, draping, taping, adjacent placement, juxtaposed positioning and sandwiching of the membrane onto the implant.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein:

the edge is 2-4 times thicker than the substantially uniform thickness; and

the step of applying the thin membrane onto the implant comprises heat-shrinking the thin membrane around the implant.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of applying the thin membrane onto the implant comprises:

dissolving a polymer material in a solvent to form a solution; and

coating the implant with the solution.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein:

the polymer material is selected from the group consisting essentially of a lactide polymer and a copolymer of two or more lactides; and

the solvent is selected from the group comprising ethyl acetate, acetonitrile, acetone, methyl ethyl ketone, tetrahydrofuran, methyl pyrole, and any combination thereof.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the solution comprises a concentration in the range of about 0.1 to about 5.0% of the polymer.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 7, further comprising a step of drying the coated implant before placement into a surgical site.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the step of drying comprises drying the coated implant in a vacuum oven.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of air drying the coated implant before placement in the vacuum oven.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the step of coating the implant comprises spraying the implant with the solution.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the edge is 2-4 times thicker than the substantially uniform thickness, and the implant comprises biological material.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 14, wherein the biological material comprises grafting material.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein the grafting material is selected from the group consisting of autograft material, xenograft material, allograft material, and combinations thereof.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein the grafting material is selected from the group consisting of veins, arteries, heart valves, skin, dermis, epidermis, nerves, tendons, ligaments, bone, bone marrow, blood, white blood cells, red blood cells, gonadocytes, embryos, cells, adipose, fat, muscle, cartilage, fascia, membranes, pericardium, plura, periostium, peritoneum and dura.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein the surrounding tissue is selected from the group comprising fascia, soft tissues, muscle, organs, fat, adipose, membranes, pericardium, plura, periostium, peritoneum, dura, bowels, intestines, ovaries, veins, arteries, epidermis, tendons, ligaments, nerves, bone and cartilage.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the edge is 2-4 times thicker than the substantially uniform thickness, and the implant comprises a transplanted organ.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 19, wherein the surrounding tissue is selected from the group comprising fascia, soft tissues, muscle, organs, fat, adipose, membranes, pericardium, plura, periostium, peritoneum, dura, bowels, intestines, ovaries, veins, arteries, epidermis, tendons, ligaments, nerves, bone and cartilage.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the edge is 2-4 times thicker than the substantially uniform thickness, and the implant comprises non-biological material.

22. (Original) The method according to claim 21, wherein the implant comprises a medical device.

23. (Original) The method according to claim 22, wherein the medical device is selected from the group consisting of bone graft substitutes, bone cement, tissue glues and adhesives, bone fixation members, defibrillators, eye spheres, sutures, staples, cochlear implants, pumps, artificial organs, non-resorbable membranes, bone growth stimulators, neurological stimulators, dental implants, guided tissue and guided bone regeneration membranes, eye lid weights and tympanostomy tubes.

24. (Original) The method according to claim 22, wherein the medical device comprises a fluid-filled prosthesis.

25. (Original) The method according to claim 23, wherein the surrounding tissue is selected from the group comprising fascia, soft tissues, muscle, organs, fat, adipose, membranes, pericardium, plura, periostium, peritoneum, dura, bowels, intestines, ovaries, veins, arteries, epidermis, tendons, ligaments, nerves, bone and cartilage.

26. (Original) The method according to claim 24, wherein the surrounding tissue is selected from the group comprising fascia, soft tissues, muscle, organs, fat, adipose, membranes, pericardium, plura, periostium, peritoneum, dura, bowels, intestines, ovaries, veins, arteries, epidermis, tendons, ligaments, nerves, bone and cartilage.

27. (Original) The method according to claim 24, wherein the fluid-filled prosthesis comprises a breast implant.

28. (Original) The method according to claim 27, wherein the breast implant comprises a saline implant contained within a silicone casing.

29. (Original) The method according to claim 22, wherein the implant comprises a pacemaker.

30-33. Cancelled.

34. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the edge is 2-4 times thicker than the substantially uniform thickness, and the implant comprises grafting material selected from the group consisting of autograft material, xenograft material, allograft material, and combinations thereof.

35. (Original) The method according to claim 34, wherein the grafting material is selected from the group consisting of veins, arteries, heart valves, skin, dermis, epidermis, nerves, tendons, ligaments, bone, bone marrow, blood, white blood cells, red blood cells, gonadocytes, embryos, cells, adipose, fat, muscle, cartilage, fascia, membranes, pericardium, plura, periostium, peritoneum and dura.

36. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the edge is 2-4 times thicker than the substantially uniform thickness, and the surrounding tissue is selected from the group comprising fascia, soft tissues, muscle, organs, fat, adipose, membranes, pericardium, plura, periostium, peritoneum, dura, bowels, intestines, ovaries, veins, arteries, epidermis, tendons, ligaments, nerves, bone and cartilage.

37-51. Cancelled.